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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Bruce Raymond MACKINNON

Serial No.: New

Filing Date: November 5, 2001

For: STEP OR BRACKET DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, immediately following the title, please insert the following sentence: - This is a nationalization of PCT/NZ00/00068 filed May 5, 2000 and published in English.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17 & 18 as follows:

4. (amended) A bracket device according to claim 1 wherein said attachment means extends from an opening in said proximal end of said operating member, and is slidable in a direction into or out of said proximal end.

6. (amended) A bracket device according to claim 1, wherein said attachment means is terminated with a hook which in use engages within an aperture provided in a wall of said thin walled section.